

Welcome to PCAccent. This newsletter is an adjunct, an "accent" if you will, to the PCA's Web site and the PENnant. The Board of Directors will use PCAccent to keep you informed about PCA news and happenings.

PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THIS NEWSLETTER! For comments or questions, send email to PCA President Rick Propas. To subscribe or unsubscribe, please send email to Membership Coordinator Kim Sosin. Email addresses for Rick and Kim can be found on the PCA's Web site:
<http://www.pencollectors.com/>

*** Summary of PCA Board Meeting in May - Bill Hong ***

At the May teleconference meeting, the PCA Board of Directors elected Carla Mortensen as new PCA Vice President, succeeding the retiring Richard Binder, who remains on the Board. The Board also accepted summary minutes of its recent planning retreat, and discussed what actions it would undertake to support a memorial fund in the name of Sonya Mawhorter, who has been instrumental in helping the Board in its past planning work. Updates were also provided on Pens for Kids support activities, memberships status (now close to 1000 total) and upcoming membership renewal policy changes. Discussion of how PCA website upgrade proposals will be received and evaluated over the coming summer, as well as library digitization efforts and the upcoming Board elections were also matters for consideration.

*** PENnant Update - Richard Jarvis ***

The Summer 2008 issue of The PENnant will go in the mail next week. This issue features the continuation of the personal history of the manufacturers of Diamond Point pens, including many photos of the pens and some ephemera as well. Pen shows from the Spring will be featured with many pictures and reports from those who were there. Which brings us to our next point: We are always seeking articles for The PENnant. If you have some research you've done or if you've just found a mystery pen and can't quite figure it out, get us some good photos and a short write-up together for the magazine. We want to help contribute to the knowledge of pens and serve as a reference tool for collectors today and in the future. The best way for us to do that is for you to contribute your expertise and experience. If you're interested in submitting an article, contact Managing Editor Richard Jarvis at wordherder62@gmail.com

*** PCA Election Update - Carla Mortensen ***

This cycle, three members of the current board are eligible for re-election: Joel Hamilton, Bill Hong, and Kim Sosin. In addition, the Nominations Committee solicited both self-nominations as well as nominations from others during the month of June, 2008. In total, six people initially evidenced interest in joining the board, but all have withdrawn from current consideration. Several hope to be considered in the following election cycle when they have concluded other obligations.

As a result, the ballots which will be sent out in September electronically (and by hard copy to members who do not have emails) will ONLY contain the names of the Board members running for re-election. Members will be free to write in the names of any candidates they feel appropriate, but should those people gain a majority of votes, they would have to agree to the terms of office, available in the Bylaws listed on the PCA website.

The ballot results (electronic and postal) must be returned by October 1 and will be immediately posted on the PCA website. The winners of the election (or reelection) will be presented to the membership at the Ohio Pen Show in November.

*** Finance Committee - Ernesto Soler ***

The Board just received the resignation from Russ Ewert, our Treasurer. We appreciate all that he has done for the PCA and we wish him the best. We will be starting a search for a new Treasurer. If you have any suggestions, please let us know.

The Finance Committee is gearing up to begin the budget process for 2009, which it is aiming to complete by early October. This will allow the PCA to better manage its funds and serve its membership. The budget process will include all the operating committees of the board, which will also be responsible for the ongoing expenditures.

*** Membership Info - Kim Sosin ***

The Pennant subscription and the membership year have always extended from January to December, no matter what time of year that a member joins. The description of the long-time policy is expressed like this on the PCA website: "Our membership dues are based on a January-December calendar year. All members joining after October 1st will have their membership extended through the following year. The PCA mails renewal notices each November."

The PCA board has just elected to change that policy to one that is logical and more consistent with policies of other memberships and publications. Beginning with members who paid in March, 2008 and from now on, membership dues will purchase a membership from the month of payment to the same month the following year, or the same month three years away if the three year membership is purchased. We will mail renewal postcards in November, 2008, to all whose memberships were purchased between October, 2007 and February, 2008, with a reminder postcard in late January, 2009. Beginning in March, 2009, postcards will be mailed each month to those whose memberships expires that month.

*** Pens for Kids - Linda Bauer ***

The Pens for Kids workshop will be held the Sunday (August 10th) at the DC Pen Show, tentatively scheduled at 11AM. Bill Hong will be leading the workshop. Please look for signs to get you to the right room.

PCA, on behalf of the Pens for Kids program, wishes to thank Greg Sachs and the Sachs/Fultz for the very generous donation of an LCD projector to be used for Pens for Kids workshops at pen shows and other venues. We'd also like to thank Keith Zaransky for facilitating the purchase of the projector.

Our current PFK presentation uses slides, as projectors are very expensive to rent. Slides are hard to update! Now we can easily modify our PowerPoint presentations to fit individual workshops.

Again, thank you!

*** Upcoming Pen Shows - Deb Kinney ***

This is a new section where we will highlight upcoming Pen Shows. Please send me any blurb, URL or general info for pen shows in your area.

Seventeenth Annual Washington D.C. Collectible Fountain Pen Supershow. August 7th, 8th (Preshow), 9th and 10th, 2008 Sheraton Premiere at Tysons Corner. Please see the show website for more information <http://www.pencentral.com/>

19th Annual Michigan Antique & Collectible Pen Show. Friday September 5th & Saturday September 6th, 2008 The Hilton Detroit/Troy Please see the show website for more information http://www.michpens.com/html/michigan_pen_show.html

*** Local Pen Club News - Deb Kinney ***

Here is another new section that is geared toward local pen clubs. Please send me info (kinney@law.duke.edu) on your local club meetings or events that you want to share with other PCA members.

Research Triangle Pen Club News: Our next meeting will be back at the Mad Hatter Bakery (Main and Broad Streets in Durham, across from Duke East Campus, Swift Ave exit off 147/Durham Expressway) on Sunday, August 17 at 2:00. Let's talk about our favorite modern pens (1985 or later). For more information email Ross McKinney ross@rosspens.com.

The next meeting of the DC Metro Pen Club will be in conjunction with the DC Pen Show, on Saturday, August 9 at 4 p.m. The meeting will be a joint gathering of the Richmond and Baltimore Pen Clubs, and the topic will be "Hey, Look What I Found at the Show!!"

The DC Metro Pen Club is an informal group of pen collectors, interested in both new and vintage writing instruments. The Club has no officers, no dues, and no rules. It has about 80+ members, and meets semi-regularly, on a weekend morning, about every other month, generally at the homes of members.

For more information on the DC Metro Pen Club, contact Harry Shubin: shubin@mwzb.com

St. Louis Area Pen Users group: Our next meeting is August 16th at 1:00 PM at the Oak Bend branch of the St. Louis County Library. The fall meeting is scheduled for November 15th at 9:00 AM at the same location. The St. Louis Area Pen Users is an informal club for those interested in writing instruments and related items. Current members have interests in collecting or daily use; fountain pens, ballpoint, mechanical pencils, ink wells and bottles. The club is open to all interested parties and no dues are charged, though a voluntary contribution of \$1/meeting (to defray the meeting room cost) is appreciated. Generally members are from the St. Louis metropolitan area, central Missouri and southern Illinois. We meet quarterly, at Oak Bend Branch-St. Louis County Library, located one block east of the I-44/Big Bend intersection, 842 S. Holmes Avenue, Oakland, MO. For additional information contact Kent Leichliter, (kleichliter1@earthlink.net)

*** Digital Library - Joel Hamilton ***

Material is currently being scanned by our Reference Librarian and past PCA Board President Dan Reppert with some assistance from others. We are exploring which is the best format for the documents and how to best present them on the web site for ease and efficiency of downloading by the membership, which is the end goal. As the song says, "We've only just begun..." Stay tuned for what is going to be one heckuva a digital library!